

created from light, the jinn from fire and Adam was created from clay.” (This was recorded in *Sahih Muslim*).

Al-Hasan al-Basri said, “Iblees was not from the angels even for the blinking of an eye.”² Ibn Taimiya said, “Verily, Satan was from the angels with respect to his appearance, but not with respect to his origin, and not with respect to him being of the same nature as them.”³

Was Satan the origin of the Jinn or was he just one of them?

We do not possess any clear text that states Satan to have been the origin of all the jinn or that states that he was simply one of them. The latter is more apparent from the Quranic statement,

إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنِّ

“Except Iblees and he was of the jinn” (*al-Kahf*50). Ibn Taimiya is of the opinion that Satan was the origin of all the jinn in the same way that Adam is the origin of all mankind.⁴

The Food and Drink of the Jinn

The jinn, and Satan among them, eat and drink. In *Sahih al-Bukhari* it is recorded on the authority of Abu Huraira that the Prophet (peace be upon him) told him to get some stones in order for the Prophet (peace be upon him) to clean himself after defecation. The

¹ This translator was not able to find this hadith with this wording in *Sahih Muslim*. Instead, there is the hadith that has been mentioned earlier, “The angels were created from light.. and Adam was created from what has been described to you [by Allah in the Quran].”—JZ

² Quoted from ibn Katheer, *al-Bidaaya wa al-Nihaaya*, vol. 1, p. 79.

³ *Majmu al-Fatawa*, vol. 4, p. 346.

⁴ *Majmu al-Fatawa*, vol. 4, pp. 235 and 346

Prophet (peace be upon him) told Abu Huraira, “Do not bring me bones or dung.” Abu Huraira asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) why he specifically mentioned not to bring those two items. The Prophet (peace be upon him) told him, “They are food for the jinn. A delegation of Naseeb came to me, and what nice jinn they are, and asked me about their provisions. I supplicated to Allah for them that they would never pass by dung or bones except that they would find meat upon them.” And it is recorded in *Sunan at-Tirmidhi*, with a *sahih* chain, that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “Do not clean yourselves with dung or with bones for they are food for your brothers among the jinn.”¹ And in *Sahih Muslim* it is recorded from Ibn Masud that a messenger from the jinn came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and he went with them. The Prophet (peace be upon him) read to them some Quranic verses. The Prophet (peace be upon him) showed the people the remains of their embers. They asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) about their provisions and he told them, “Every bone on which the name of Allah has been mentioned will have meat on it for you. And the dung are fodder for your animals.” Then he said, “Do not clean yourselves with them as they are food for your brothers.”*

The Prophet also informed us that the devils eat with their left hands and he ordered us to be different from them in this respect. Muslim recorded in his *Sahih*, on the authority of Ibn Umar, that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

إِذَا أَكَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ فَلْيَأْكُلْ بِيَمِينِهِ وَإِذَا شَرِبَ فَلْيَشْرَبْ بِيَمِينِهِ فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ
يَأْكُلُ بِشِمَالِهِ وَيَشْرَبُ بِشِمَالِهِ

“If one of you eats, he should eat with his right hand. And if he drinks, he should drink with his right hand. Verily, Satan eats with his left hand and drinks with his left hand.” In *Musnad Ahmad*, the following hadith is recorded,

¹ *Sahib al-Jaami*, vol. 2, p. 154.

² If we are prohibited from spoiling the food of the jinn, it is must definitely also be the case that we are prohibited from spoiling the food of humans.

مَنْ أَكَلَ بِشِمَالِهِ أَكَلَ مَعَهُ الشَّيْطَانُ وَمَنْ شَرِبَ بِشِمَالِهِ شَرِبَ مَعَهُ
الشَّيْطَانُ

“Whoever eats with his left hand, Satan eats with him. And whoever drinks with his left hand, Satan drinks with him.”

The following hadith is also recorded in *Musnad Ahmad*,

إِذَا دَخَلَ الرَّجُلُ بَيْتَهُ فَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِ وَعِنْدَ طَعَامِهِ قَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ لَا
مَبِيتَ لَكُمْ وَلَا عَشَاءَ وَإِذَا دَخَلَ فَلَمْ يَذْكُرِ اللَّهَ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِ قَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ
أَدْرَكْتُمُ الْمَبِيتَ وَإِذَا لَمْ يَذْكُرِ اللَّهَ عِنْدَ طَعَامِهِ قَالَ أَدْرَكْتُمُ الْمَبِيتَ وَالْعَشَاءَ

“If the man enters his house and mentions the name of Allah upon entering it and upon eating therein, Satan says, ‘There is no lodging for you here and no meal here.’ But if the man enters his house and neglects to mention the name of Allah upon entering it, Satan says, ‘I have found lodging for you.’ And if he does not mention Allah’s name upon eating his meal, Satan says, ‘I have found lodging and a meal.’” This hadith was also recorded by Muslim. These hadith are clear texts that definitely prove that the devils eat and drink.

In the same manner that it is prohibited for man to eat any meat that has not had the name of Allah pronounced over it, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) permitted the believing jinn to eat any bone that has had the name of Allah pronounced over it. They are not permitted to eat meat over which Allah’s name has not been mentioned. All that has been eaten without having the name of Allah mentioned over it provides food for the non-believing jinn who are the devils. In other words, the devils seek as permissible all the food that has not had the name of Allah mentioned over it. This is why many scholars are of the opinion that carrion that have died by themselves are food for the devils because the name of Allah was not mentioned over them.

Ibn Qayyim concludes from the verse of the Quran,

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ

عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“O you who believe, strong drink and games of chance and idols and divining arrows are only an infamy of Satan’s handiwork. Leave it aside in order that you might succeed” (*al-Maaidah* 90), that intoxicating liquors are the beverages of the devils. And it is the drink that he orders his patrons to drink, and he participates with them in that action, in its drinking, its sin and its eventual punishment.

Do the jinn marry and procreate?

It is apparent that the jinn do have sexual intercourse. To prove this, some of the scholars refer to the description of the spouses in paradise. Allah says concerning them,

لَمْ يَطْمِئْنُوهُنَّ إِنْسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ

“Therein are those of modest gaze, whom neither man nor jinn will have touched before them” (*al-Rahmaan* 60). The author of *Lawaami* , *al-Anwaar al-Bahiya* mentions a hadith which deserves a closer look to see at its chain to see whether it is authentic or not. The hadith states,

إن الجن يتوالدون كما يتوالد بنو آدم

“The jinn have children in the same way that the sons of Adam have children, but theirs are more in number.” This was related by ibn Abu Haatim and Abu al-Shaikh in *al-*